

Changes made in the House State Government Committee SB 5499 – Omnibus election reform bill

The Good News:

- Keeps Sen. Mulliken's amendment requiring provisional ballots to be a different color or bar-coded to prevent them from being fed into voting machines before verification.
- Keeps Sen. Roach's amendment requiring a security flap on absentee ballots to protect voter privacy.

The Bad News:

- Removes the requirement that poll voters show any form of identification
- Removes Sec. State review of county election procedures every three years
- Removes random investigation of voter rolls ("VVV Techs") (Roach Amendment)
- Removes moving the candidate filing date to fourth Monday in June (Schoesler Amendment)
- Removes the counting of military ballots after certification if commanding officer attests that the ballot was received late (Roach Amendment)
- Removes ban on third party "vote shopping" collection of signatures or affidavits to cure ballot problems
- Requires that ballots be counted if the name on the signature is different, but the "handwriting" matches
- Removes the ban on ballot enhancements
- Downgrades vote fraud crimes to misdemeanors
- Requires that counties with 75,000+ population canvass absentee ballots and poll site votes every day
- Requires that counties with less than 75,000 population canvass absentee ballots and poll site votes every third day
- Removes prohibition on crediting voters with voting if their absentee ballot was not counted

 Moves requirement that DMV ask applicants if they meet the constitutional requirements for voting (U.S. citizenship and at least 18 at the time of voting) to SB 5743 (Roach Amendment)

SB 5743 –HAVA clean-up bill

The Good News

- Enhances Sen. Roach's amendment by adding overseas voters to armed forces check box
- Requires persons convicted of felony to sign a statement that they understand they are losing their voting rights
- Enhances Sen. Roach's amendment by requiring all state agencies assisting in voter registration to ask the applicants if they meet the Constitutional voting requirements—at least 18 at the time of voting and U.S. citizenship
- Keeps Sen. Roach's amendment that requires the DMV to ask the above two questions and deny registration if the voter answers "no"

The Bad News:

- Civil right to vote is automatically returned to persons convicted of a felony after completion
 of their sentence—rather than requiring them to pay off their restitution.
- Removes requirement that Secretary of State check Constitutionally required citizenship status with INS
- Removes HAVA requirement that if the Secretary of State can't match info in Department of Licensing or Social Security Administration to voter application, a copy of a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck or other government check can be used to prove name and address
- Allows voter registration to be considered complete even if the applicant does not have a state ID card, a driver's license number or a social security number (Reverses HAVA protections against illegal registration)
- Changes random investigation of individual voters to quarterly review of entire database
- Allows a person's date of birth that is included in voter registration to be made available for public inspection and copying (Empowering ID thieves even more)